

In the Claims

The following is a copy of Applicants' pending claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of relieving competition between processing jobs sharing a production device, said method comprising:
 - a. accessing from a user's browser a destination service representing at least one production device;
 - b. retrieving said user's imaging information by said destination service;
 - c. selecting among production options provided by said destination service for determining a first processing job to process said imaging information using said at least one production device;
 - d. estimating the time duration required to process said first processing job using said at least one production device with said selected production options;
 - e. providing said user an option of reserving a start time for deferred processing of said first processing job using said at least one production device in accordance with said selected production options; and
 - f. if said user opts to reserve a start time, then setting a first deferred start time, storing said first processing job during a deferral period until said first deferred start time occurs, and then deferred processing said first processing job using said production device in accordance with said selected production options such that, if processing of a second processing job is requested during a time period that includes any remaining portion of the deferral period and the estimated processing time of the first processing job, an option of reserving a second deferred start time for

deferred processing of the second job is provided, the second deferred start time occurring after an estimated completion time for deferred processing of said first processing job.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first processing job is stored in a medium selected from the group consisting of a hard disk and an image store associated with said user's identity.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said setting said first deferred start time includes avoiding conflict with unavailable deferred start times of said production device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising estimating the resources required to process said first processing job using said production device with said selected production options.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein setting further comprises reserving quantities of said respective resources required to process said first processing job during said deferral period.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said reserved resources required to process said first processing job are monitored during said deferral period.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein during said deferral period a warning message is displayed whenever any of said reserved resources is depleted to a quantity not greater than said reserved quantity of said reserved resource.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein during said deferral period said reserved resources are reported as if said reserved quantities of said reserved resources had already been consumed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein during said deferral period said warning message is removed if said reserved resources are replenished above said reserved quantity.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising interrupting an existing processing job having a first arrived at priority, that is currently using a production device, such that another processing job can use said production device, said another processing job having a second arrived at priority different from said first arrived at priority.

11. (Previously Presented) A destination service representing a production device, said destination service operable to:

download content into a browser;

retrieve first imaging information;

select, under user interactive control via said content, from among production options for processing said first imaging information using said production device;

estimate the time duration required to process said first imaging information using said production device in accordance with said selected production options;

provide an option of reserving a first deferred start time for deferred processing of said first imaging information; and

if a first deferred start time is reserved, interactively determine said first deferred start time and implement deferred processing of said first imaging information in accordance with said selected production options such that, if processing of a second processing job using said production device is requested and processing of the second processing job cannot be completed by the production device prior to the first deferred start time of the first processing job, an option of reserving a second deferred start time for deferred processing of the second processing job is provided, the second deferred start time occurring after the estimated completion time for deferred processing of said first processing job.

12. (Original) The destination service of claim 11 further operable to estimate resources required to process said imaging information in accordance with said selected production options.

13. (Original) The destination service of claim 12 further operable to reserve until said deferred start time said required resources in quantities sufficient to process said imaging information in accordance with said selected production options.

14. (Original) The destination service of claim 13 further operable to monitor until said deferred start time said required resources and to display a warning message whenever any of said reserved resources is depleted to a quantity not greater than said reserved quantity of said reserved resource.

15. – 20. (Canceled)